

# Gen. Colby Named as OAC Head

Succeeds Gen. Butler  
In Command Post

Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Colby, a native Iowan who is now commander of Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, will succeed Maj. Gen. Robert T. Butler early in May as commanding general of the Ordnance Ammunition Command in Joliet. It was made known Saturday by Lt. Gen. E. L. Cummings, Army chief of ordnance.

Gen. Butler, who has been the OAC commanding general since June, 1954, will become deputy commander of the communications zone, U. S. Army in Europe (USAREUR). He will begin his new duties early in April with headquarters at Orleans, France. Gen. and Mrs. Butler will depart from Joliet about March 12.

In his new post, Gen. Butler will aid Maj. Gen. R. W. Col-



BRIG. GEN. J. M. COLBY

glazier Jr. in directing the activities of the communications zone. This group has the job of providing all the supplies, services and construction needed to maintain and support the U. S. forces stationed in western Europe under the NATO organization.

Gen. Colby, who was born in Lake Mills, Ia., and was graduated from West Point in 1929, has been an Army Ordnance Corps officer since 1934. Most of his ordnance career has been devoted to the design and manufacture of tanks and other military vehicles.

In 1940-41 he was in charge of the ordnance design section that designed and developed the Grant, Lee and Sherman tanks of World War II fame. In June, 1941, he went to Egypt, where he supervised the equipment and helped train the British Fourth Army brigade in the operation and maintenance of American tanks. Later, he was an American observer during the November-December 1941 desert battles when the German armored forces under Rommel were driven from the vicinity of Solum to El Aghella.

Returning to the U. S. in 1941, Gen. Colby directed all of the ordnance corps tank and automotive development activities for the next nine years. During this period, Ordnance developed the Chaffee, the Walker-Bulldog and the Patton tanks, as well as many self-propelled artillery carriers, other special-purpose tracked vehicles and wheeled transports for troops and equipment.

Gen. Colby is credited with having brought many innovations and improvements to U. S. tank design, including air-cooled engines, individually sprung wheel torsion bar suspensions, concentric recoil mechanisms, power turret traverse and heavy armor casting.

In September, 1950, Gen. Colby was sent on a special mission to Japan and Korea. He was an observer with the U. S. Second Division on the Han River when the Chinese communist armies began their invasion of Korea.

In 1951-52, he organized and commanded the Ordnance Procurement Center in Europe. This headquarters directed the Army's Offshore Procurement program in Europe, which disbursed more than \$1.5-billion for the support of U. S. military, economic and diplomatic objectives.

As commanding officer of Frankford Arsenal from October, 1954, to the present, Gen. Colby has been responsible for directing the varied and large-scale activities of this important and historic ordnance establishment. During his tenure there, Gen.

(Continued on Page Two)

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(Continued from Page One)

Colby has been in charge of the arsenal's reorganization from a purely manufacturing establishment to one engaged in research and development engineering, procurement, production and stock control activities on many different kinds of material furnished by Army Ordnance to the three armed services.

Gen. Colby holds a master of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is also a graduate of the Army Industrial College and the Command and General Staff School. His decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant, and the Order of the British Empire.

Gen. Butler, during his 1954-57 tour of duty as OAC commander, has brought about the "commodity command concept" in the ammunition field by developing the OAC into the national headquarters of the Army ammunition program.

The responsibilities of OAC now include the industrial engineering of ammunition items, the procurement of ammunition parts as well as finished items, the production of small-arms ammunition as well as all other ordnance ammunition, the storage and maintenance control of all Army ammunition stocks in the U. S., the supervision of 26 subordinate ammunition plants and works, and the performance of varied work for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The present program of OAC activity amounts to about \$500 million per year, the expenditure of which is directed and supervised by the headquarters staff of 1,000 Ordnance officers and civilians.

Charles Wells, 21, of 1318 St. Pequot St., was arrested Saturday on a disorderly conduct complaint resulting from a tavern fight that took place New Year's eve at the Black Diamond. He will face a justice of the peace hearing Monday.